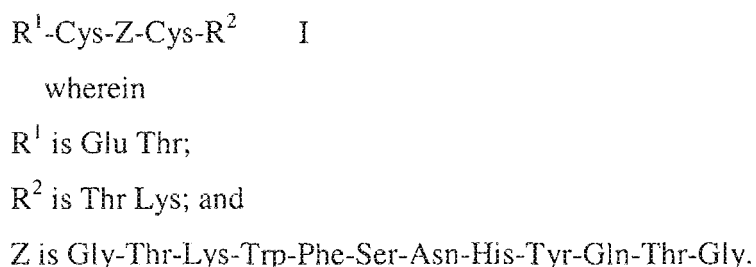


REMARKS

In the Notice of Non-Responsive Amendment, it is alleged that the reply which was filed on April 19, 2010, is not fully responsive to the prior Office Communication because a single disclosed species is/was required for the election to be complete. As previously indicated, Applicants provisionally elect, with traverse, to prosecute Group I, which corresponds to claims 1-3 and 8-10.

Moreover, in response to the Notice of Non-Responsive Amendment, Applicants elect, with traverse, the template-fixed β -hairpin mimetic of the general formula:



New claim 15 reads on the elected species and falls within elected Group I. With respect to elected Group I, claims 1-3 and 8-10 are generic. With respect to non-elected Group II, claims 4, 5, and 11-14 are generic. With respect to non-elected Group III, claims 6 and 7 are generic.

Support for new claim 15 may be found at page 37, Table 4, Example 14, SEQ ID NO: 21, of the application. No new matter has been added by way of the amendments to the claims.

As previously indicated in the Amendment and Response to Restriction/Election Requirement which was filed on April 19, 2010, Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's allegation that the instant claims do not meet the criteria for unity of invention set forth in the PCT. For the Examiner's convenience, the reasons for the traversal are again set

forth below.

The Examiner appears to have asserted that the subject-matter of the present claims lacks a significant common structural element mediating a common activity/function. In this regard, the Examiner has alleged that “the peptides are not asserted to have the same activity/function, as the method of screening requires only ‘a specific binding partner.’” (Office Communication dated February 18, 2010, page 3). Also, the Examiner appears to have contended that the cysteine-enclosed peptide of 4 to 20 amino acids, *i.e.* component Z, is not sufficiently identified to result in a common structural element. Applicants respectfully disagree for the following reasons.

Claim 1 relates to a cyclic template-fixed β -hairpin mimetic with the hairpin located inside a disulfide-closed cyclic peptide, wherein the hairpin is stabilized by two cysteine-adjacent and non-cyclic di- and tripeptides of any variation of the listed amino acid motifs A, B and C.

Hence, it is evidently not the objective of the present invention to provide binding to any specific binding partner but to stabilize a *potential* binding partner featuring a specific structural motif, this being a β -hairpin structure. It follows, consequently, that claim 1 does not read on any amino acids for Z but on any amino acids mediating a hairpin motif. The presence of such a motif can be verified by known means in the art, *e.g.* as described by the examples of the patent application’s specification, *i.e.*, by measuring the kinetics of disulfide bridge formation of example 2a or by measuring circular dichroism of example 2b.

Furthermore, the Examiner appears to have alleged that the skilled person would not recognize a common function/activity because of the seemingly broad variation of the cysteine-adjacent di- and tripeptide motifs.

Applicants respectfully submit that one of ordinary skill in the art very well understands that the very short, non-cyclic and cysteine-adjacent di- and tripeptides R^1 and R^2 can have a stabilizing effect on a β -sheet structure in their close vicinity and fixed between them and that the effect depends on the binding compatibility of the β -sheet in the Z-region to the adjacent di- and tripeptides. At least one amino acid of the components A, B and C is selected for compatibility with amino acids typically present in β -sheets. Hence, components A, B and C are selected to provide stabilizing effects on the β -sheet in the adjacent loop.

Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner would certainly search the class and subclass of any of Groups I-III to find a reference against the subject matter of any of the other groups. Accordingly, Applicants maintain that a co-extensive field of search seems virtually mandated and would not present an undue burden. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that one of ordinary skill in the art could search the previously elected template-fixed β -hairpin compound species without undue burden.

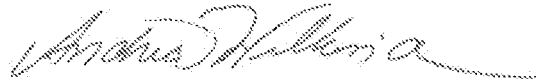
For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the requirement for restriction/election be withdrawn and consideration of all of the claims on the merits be commenced.

No fees are deemed due. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any fees associated with this communication, including any claim fees, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 08-2461. Such authorization includes authorization to charge fees for extensions of time, if any, under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 and also should be treated as a constructive petition for an extension of time in this reply or any future reply pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136.

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If there are any questions, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted, *

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Andrea Wilkovich", written over a horizontal line.

Andrea M. Wilkovich
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